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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Nil.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI A. RATNAM :—" தென் ஆற்காடு மாவட்டத்தில் தேசிய விஸ்தரிப்பு வேலைகளில் அதிகாரிகளுக்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் செலவழிக்கிறார்கள் ? எத்தனைப்பேர்களை அமர்த்தியிருக்கிறார்கள் ? காதி உண்டியல் வாங்கினால் தான் தக்காவி கடன் கொடுக்கப்படும் என்ற நிபந்தனையை அதிகாரிகள் உபயோகிக்கிறார்களா என்பதை அறிய விரும்புகிறேன்."

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I am sorry I cannot give any information in reply to the question that has been framed and put by the hon. Member."

*Experiment on artificial rain-making.*

* 273 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government are going to conduct any experiment for artificial rain for the State as announced by Mr. A. R. Venkatachari, Chief Engineer, in the Chief Engineers' Conference at Madras on the 30th May 1954?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The question of conducting experiments on artificial rain-making is under the consideration of this Government and no final decision has yet been taken in the matter."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" When will that be conducted, Sir? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Sir, experiments are being conducted not only in this country, but also in the United States of America, Canada, East Africa, Australia, etc., and nowhere has the experiment been finalized. Our Government have been doing it here in their own way without much of expenditure."

*Development of cottage industries.*

* 274 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of cottage industries started by the Government in the year 1953 and the amount spent thereon;

(*b*) the extent of lands given to the managements of cottage industries in 1953; and

(*c*) the amount granted to cottage industries by way of subsidy in the year 1953?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The Government have not started in the State any new cottage industry departmentally in the year 1953. But about 35 cottage industries have been revived in that year. A total amount of Rs. 1,050 has been disbursed to artisans as loan for the development of these industries.

" (*b*) & (*c*) Nil, Sir."

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**Sri A. RATNAM**:—" தனிப்பட்டவர்களுக்கு குடிசைத் தொழிலின் கீழ் எவ்வளவு பண உதவி அளிக்கப்பட்டது. நிலங்கள் கோரி எத்தனை மனுக்கள் போடப்பட்டது ? ஹரிஜனங்களுக்கும், பிற்பட்ட வகுப்பினருக்கும் எவ்வளவு நிலங்கள் கொடுக்கப்பட்டன ? "

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" I would suggest to the hon. Member to put a separate question, Sir."

*Legislation to facilitate the settlement of disputes between beedi workers and their employers.*

* 275 *Q.*—Sri M. KALYANASUNDRAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state whether the Government are considering any proposal for suitable legislation to obviate the legal difficulty in settling disputes between beedi workers and the employers, as pointed out by the Industrial Tribunal, Madras, in their award, dated 11th August 1954, published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*, dated 8th September 1954?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" Yes, Sir."

*Strike in the Feroke Tile Works and the Madura Engineering Works, Malabar.*

* 276 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) what conciliation measures the Government have taken regarding the strike in the Feroke Tile Works and the Madura Engineering Works, Malabar, which started on 31st May 1954 ;

(*b*) how many workers were involved in the strike ; and

(*c*) whether the Labour Officer, Malabar, has sent any report to the Government regarding the strike, and if so, when?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) The conciliation proceedings were held of the Labour Officer, Kozhikode. I also discussed the matter with Sri K. P. Gopalan. Consequently an agreement was arrived at between the management and workers before the Collector of Malabar. The strike and lockout in the factories came to an end on the 14th July 1954.

" (*b*) Four hundred and seventy-six workers were involved in the strike.

" (*c*) Yes, Sir. He sent the report on 16th June 1954."

*New blocks under the National Extension Scheme.*

* 277 *Q.*—Sri A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) the number of new centres to be opened under the National Extension Scheme during the year 1954 ; and

(*b*) whether any centres are proposed to be opened in South Arcot district, and if so, where?